# CM510 Polity of Grace Communion International

## Short Syllabus

**Instructor:** Greg Williams, DMin

## Course description

This course is designed to help students understand denominational life and polity within Grace Communion International. We will give the student an overview of the church's history, its leaders, and its theological journey. The primary objective of the class is to help the student get a better understanding into the culture and organizational structure of Grace Communion International and then to ably function within the denominational system.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of approximately 145 hours, or about 11 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

## Required textbooks

Cowan, Steven (General Editor); Toon, Peter; Taylor, L. Roy; Patterson, Paige, Waldron, Samuel. *Who Runs the Church? Four Views on Church Government*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004. ISBN: 978-0-310-24607-7 (sells for about $16)

Tkach, Joseph. *Transformed by Truth.* Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1997. ISBN: 1-57673-181-2 (sells for about $5)

Williams, Greg; Shallenberger, Rick; Nebel, Tom. *A Giant Step Forward: The Next Chapter for Grace Communion International.* Available digitally on Amazon.

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

## Requirements and assignments

1. **Read (or listen to, as appropriate) the lessons.** Lessons will be posted in writing, video, or audio each Monday for the first ten weeks.

2. **Participate.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 20 percent of the final grade.

3. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 722 pages, or about 70 pages each week.

4. **Papers and final project.** This counts for 80 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 80 hours to work on these papers – an average of 8 hours per week – some weeks more, some less.